Letters to the Editor

Follow the Irish

So Victoria has to have her white elephant restored, Government House, at a cost of $1,500,000. Surely an obsolete necessity now-a-days.

We have many more pressing needs such as extensions to our hospitals. If our governments are so opposed to sweepstakes, why should they sink such a sum in a useless monolith.

The Irish hospitals must be superb palaces by now on our money. Would it not be far more advisable to follow their example. Most of us like to dream dreams.

NEVILLE E. FAIRWEATHER.

Saseenos, R.R. 2.

Excited and Happy

May I thank you very much for the beautiful flowers you so kindly sent our hospital.

The "Share the Flowers" plan has brought great happiness to our old gentlemen. Many of them were gardeners in their younger days and were so excited and happy to see such a lovely display.

BIRDIE E. PEGG.

Chinese Hospital, 555 Herald Street.

Cheered Us Up

We, the undersigned, desire to express our thanks for your kindness in regard to "Share the Flowers." They cheered us all up.

HUNG QUAN,
J. H. FERGUSON,
D. SIGRAM,
GEORGE BRITTON,
S. H. KISTRICK.

Room 125 Royal Jubilee Hospital.

Constructive Role

Congratulations to Mr. Mortimore for reprinting the excellent editorial from Maclean's magazine.

Many prominent individuals and groups are also expressing their concern about the urgency of the need for new prospectives on our international and domestic problems. It seems more and more obvious that Canada's position in the arms race is untenable. To turn our "defence" spending for more economic aid to underdeveloped countries, and to our own underdeveloped social services, education, scientific research, etc., is a positive and construction role for Canada to play—one for which she is most suited.

A. SEVERSON.

1082 Richmond Road.

Voluntary Euthanasia

The front page of Thursday's Colonist informs us that "The U.S. Explodes Secret A-Bombs Miles Above the Earth," and that there is "No Defence Against Missiles."

In the feature "All Aboard" we read that Canada is obsolete as a military nation and that disarmament remains our last and only hope of survival.

A leading editorial confirms the statement made by George Gregory, MLA, that civil defence was not much better than a farce. And that not only the general public but provincial and federal authorities are apathetic to civil defence proposals.

In view of the above the letter to the editor by the target area civil defence director that "Operation Friendship" was a success comes as an anti-climax.

The editorial mentioned above correctly states, "The idea is not that all might be rescued, but that as many as possible may be protected in a nuclear emergency."

We may as well face the fact that in the event of a "nuclear emergency" persons over 60 years of age and the inmates of hospitals, jails and asylums will be considered to be expendable. Means should be provided to ensure that these humans should not die from exposure or starvation. If cats, dogs and other pets are to be destroyed as a humane measure, why can not we people who choose to remain in the city, or who can not be removed in a few minutes notice, be provided with the means for voluntary euthanasia?

LINN A. GALE.

1002 Vancouver Street.

Lazy Parkers

Lovers of the many beauties of Beacon Hill Park and appreciators of the skill of the gardeners may well be alarmed at one (not so obvious) form of vandalism. In spite of ample provision for parking at a spot close to the wading pool for children, motorists too lazy to walk ten yards park their cars off the pavement, killing the grass and making six or ten feet wide mud holes. The same conditions prevail at the sports fields.

Is the parks commissioner familiar with this situation? Both he and the superintendent know best how to handle the matter. The curbs on the north and south limits of the park are fine. Until such paving and curbing can be undertaken, could not expedients be found, such as several clearly marked small parking places; "No Stopping" signs elsewhere, and prompt issue of tickets for violations?

LAWRENCE BLACKNELL.

895 Heywood Avenue.

Inapplicable to Provinces

The Bill of Rights

From Canadian Press

Dr. Frank R. Scott, Macdonald professor of law at McGill University, said Saturday night that Prime Minister Diefenbaker's bill of rights "does not put our liberties on a secure foundation."

Delivering the second Alan B. Plaunt memorial lecture at Carleton University, Ottawa, Dr. Scott said the bill perhaps has education value, that it will stand as a solemn affirmation of democratic beliefs and that it spells out a number of specific rights in a comprehensive way.

But no new machinery would be created for the enforcement of rights and the bill could not bind future parliaments.

★ ★ ★

"The instruction to the judges to interpret all future laws in favor of these freedoms would have to give way before any later law that in fact clearly took away the freedoms," Dr. Scott said.

"I think this is true whether the future law says it is amending the bill of rights or not. Hence the bill does not put our liberties on a secure foundation.

"Doubtless no future Parliament would so lightly contravene these principles; but then, even without the bill it would not lightly do so.

★ ★ ★

"Provincial legislatures can abrogate human rights exactly as much after the bill becomes law as they may have done in the past.

"It is a bill of rights for all Canadians, yes, because all Canadians come under some federal law.

"But it is a very partial bill, applicable only in peacetime, no stronger than the self-restraint of our federal members of Parliament at any given moment, and inapplicable to provincial legislatures."

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Newfoundland 'Won't Be Again'

Background to Crisis

'This Used to Be a Happy Country'

By W. A. WILSON
Special to The Colonist

An island out in the North Atlantic, separated by water and history from many far-reaching developments in North America, is utterly unprepared for the impact of a militant, efficient labor drive on its social structure.

There is no easy mainland equivalent for the force and depth of the impact on Newfoundland of the arrival of H. Landon Ladd, his International Woodworkers of America and the two and a half months loggers strike that eventually resulted.

The entry of the IWA and the strike and its violence became much more than a quarrel over five cents an hour and shorter working week.

The resentful words "nothing like this ever happened in Newfoundland before" are a refrain running through every islander's attempt to explain to an outsider why an entire province reacted in the ways this one did. It has not happened before, it carried implications of great change, it aroused deep fears, it has left bitter internal hatreds and a mounting dislike of mainland Canada.

Changes Feared

Great numbers of Newfoundlanders believe with absolute sincerity, although probably inadequate reason, that this island's dangerously weak economy was threatened with complete collapse. The changes they believed Ladd, the loggers' leader, was seeking left them horrified and to many he appears a brutal and heartless man.

Ladd admits with fervor that he was indeed attempting to reconstruct at least part of this island's social structure, which differs in important ways from the rest of Canada's. Part of that structure clearly horrifies Ladd as much as he shocks many decent Newfoundlanders.

Ladd talks movingly of the need for social changes here and his sincerity often impresses bitter enemies.

Ladd is much closer to Britain's Aneurin Bevan than to most Canadian labor leaders.

His enemies who are a large part of Newfoundland's population believe the changes he wants would be catastrophic for many of the people he wishes to help and that Newfoundland's entire economy would crumble in the process.

Hard Feelings

"There'll be hard feelings arising from this for generations to come," commented a prominent and responsible St. John's resident, A. P. Perlin, who has represented Newfoundland in negotiations with the federal government over grants.

"This used to be a happy country. It isn't any more and it won't be again."

A world away from Mr. Perlin in background and breeding was the wife of an outport minister who said: "It's brought nothing but bitterness and division. Homes are divided. Congregations are divided. There's nothing but bitterness. It will take years before it is gone."

An extremely well-dressed young woman sitting in Gander's airport waiting for an airliner saw Ladd walk across the waiting room and said to her companion: "Oooooh! I hate that man. I'd like to kill him myself."

On the opposite side are Ladd's followers, clearly a minority but still organized and bitter against the government, the RCMP and fellow loggers who broke their strike. There is also the bulk of Newfoundland's other organized labor.

Police Issue

And throughout Newfoundland, from members of the government to clergymen and taxi drivers, Prime Minister Diefenbaker's refusal to send police reinforcements when they were requested is regarded as a mainland slight demonstrating Canada's indifference to its tenth province. This is more important to most Newfoundlanders than the very debatable question whether the extra police were ever needed.

The dispute itself would almost certainly appear to any unprejudiced outsider a maze of contradictions, and mistakes contributed by the union, the company and the government. Most notable of all was the lack of any calm voice urging settlement of the dispute. In a dangerously bitter situation, highly inflammatory statements came from all sides and from Newfoundland's newspapers.

Part-Time Work

Logging is part-time work in Newfoundland. There are 20,000 loggers with work for less than half that number at any one time. A few years ago, logger averaged 32 days a year in the woods. The company struck by the IWA, the Anglo Newfoundland Development Co., which Lord Rothermere controls, says the average time has now risen to just over 70 days.

An estimated 17,000 loggers are fishermen most of the time. In the outports where they live, mainly without any modern amenities at all, part-time logging earnings are as important a part of their incomes as family allowances, unemployment insurance and earnings from fishing.

Ladd is accused by his enemies of, among many other things, wanting to create a professional full-time logging force which would be well paid. If he did, it would deny part-time work to others. Ladd himself denies that he would keep fishermen out of the woods but he indicates that he would encourage the development of a corps of full-time loggers and that the company itself would privately like it and benefit through greater productivity.

Seasons Clash

"The fishing season and the cutting season in the woods are in the summer," Ladd says. Fishermen come in during the winter for hauling. We believe the government should do something for the fishermen so they could make a living at it.

"The Newfoundland fishing industry has declined. But the Russians come here to fish. The British and Portuguese come. The Grand Banks are supposed to be one of the world's great fishing areas. Yet they can't make a go of it here.

"There are some questions to be asked."

"All loggers without exception are part-time loggers," Premier Smallwood told this reporter during a three-hour interview. Later, however, driving to outports, I found communities where fishing had died out and where loggers work the year-round in the woods.

PREMIER SMALLWOOD
'. . . I had no choice'

"They live in small coastal hamlets stretching right around 6,000 miles of coast, in 700 settlements," the premier continued. "They go into the bush not just for an extra dollar, although they can't do without it."

Now they go in to earn unemployment insurance stamps to entitle them to benefits. Last year the fisheries were a failure. Their only hope of qualifying for unemployment insurance was to get into the woods and earn stamps.

"The diabolical plan of the IWA is to bar these 17,000 men from the woods and confine the work to 3-4,000. With the aid of chain saws and other mechanization they would have a monopoly of the cutting and supply of pulpwood to two companies. They'd be a tightly knit industrial union, compact, highly efficient, a militant class-conscious loggers union earning each man $6-$7,000 a year in dues.

"It would bring economic disaster to 700 out of 1,200 settlements. I had to fight that. I had no choice. Not if the entire population of Canada opposed us could we stand by and see Newfoundland wrecked.

"I'd do exactly the same thing again but with much less hesitation than I had," Mr. Smallwood declared.

Children's Lot

"Newfoundland's Education Minister, Dr. F. W. Rowe, said last year:

"We must recognize this simple fact that the average child in the one-room schools of Newfoundland today is sentenced to semi-illiteracy unless drastic and radical steps are taken."

He revealed that of 2,810 children in Grade Two in 536 one-room schools nine years earlier, only four matriculated. He put the chances of such children of matriculating at "about one sixth of one per cent." These schools are the educational structure of the most isolated outports where many of the loggers and fishermen live.

This is the situation that has aroused Ladd's own feelings, and they are the feelings of a militant labor leader.

"This isn't an ordinary strike. Men wouldn't strike like this for three cents an hour (all that was involved in the first of two years covered by a conciliation board report the union accepted and the company rejected.) It's for a new way of life.

"We went into 268 outport communities and formed loggers committees, each with three women and two men. There was a reason for including women. This is a family fight, a struggle to form a new social order.

"When men have been arrested, their wives have taken their place in the picket lines. We've done what no other union in Canada has done—we've brought the women in. Women in a loggers' strike.

"This has more significance than hours and wages. Our people want to end the stigma of being loggers. For the first time in their lives they've felt they belonged, that they counted for something.

"One of the great hopes of the logger is that he might one day see his son get out of the conditions he has endured and become a doctor or a lawyer or a journalist or any walk of life that gives him some dignity.

"The logger is considered dirt. The phrase is 'he's only a logger'."

Technique New

The Premier, who has organized unions himself apart from the latest one, says of IWA methods:

"We've never known anything like it. The formation of a union in Newfoundland has never been done with such energy, efficiency and ruthlessness. They were professionals and they were the first union professionals who'd ever been in Newfoundland. Their technique was new here."

C. R. Tittemore, mill manager of Anglo Newfoundland which owns outright a large part of the province and supports a great segment of its economy, says of Ladd:

"He's a real professional. He's a smooth talker and to sit down and talk to him, he's pleasant enough. But when he gets out swaying the loggers it's another matter."

Ladd clearly wanted to improve the conditions of at least some of those who live in the outposts. His aim, in itself, would not be opposed, but thousands of Newfoundlanders believe his methods would have wrecked the Anglo Newfoundland Co.'s operations, scuttled the island's economy and been harsh to the point of cruelty to others who live in the outports.

(First of a series.)

Surpass Birds, Bats

Insects Best Fliers

From National Geographic Society

Insects are the most experienced flyers in the animal world. They have been airborne for some 200,000,000 years.

In flight they surpass birds and bats, and in some ways are superior to any flying machine. An airplane may fly farther and faster, but a common housefly can outmanoeuvre a jet plane.

★ ★ ★

Nature's flying machines work hard at staying aloft. One species of fly vibrates its wings 1,000 times per second. The mosquito flaps its wings about 300 times a second; the bee, nearly 200. Even a relatively sluggish butterfly beats its wings five times per second.

Although the phenomenal wing-beating of insects uses much energy and fuel, it doesn't produce exceptional speed. Dragonflies are among the fastest flyers, but their limit is estimated at 43 miles an hour in short bursts. The honeybee cruises at about eight miles and can accelerate to 14 miles an hour, and a mosquito never moves faster than six miles an hour.

Several decades ago, it was thought that a deer fly could buzz along at 820 miles an hour. The belief still is popular, despite studies of muscle weight and efficency that show such a speed to be impossible.

On the other hand, according to aerodynamic principles, a bumblebee shouldn't be able to fly at all.

Some insects are especially effective at distance flights. The familiar orange-and-black Monarch butterfly apparently has flown the Atlantic Ocean, and desert locusts fly hundreds of miles.

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